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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/551,822	10/03/2005	Subhash Shivshankar Mhatre	J2069(C)	3930
201 7590 07/14/2008 UNILEVER PATENT GROUP 800 SYLVAN AVENUE AG West S. Wing ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, NJ 07632-3100				
EXAMINER				
DOUYON, LORNA M				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/551,822

Applicant(s)

MHATRE ET AL.

Examiner

Lorna M. Douyon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/24/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 8 lacks support for "the soap" (see lines 1-2) with respect to claim 1. This claim should properly depend from claim 3.

Claims 9-10, being dependent from claim 8, are rejected as well.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lundberg et al. (US Patent No. 2,987,484), hereinafter "Lundberg".

Lundberg teaches a process for closed die molding a substantially non-soap synthetic detergent composition in the form of a toilet bar (see col. 1, lines 10-13) in which air or other gases are dispersed in the fluid detergent composition thereby resulting in a bar which will float in water (see col. 1, lines 26-29). The closed die molding process involves the rapid injection through a comparatively small orifice of a basically non-soap fluid mixture of synthetic detergent and a binder-vehicle, capable of

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rapid solidification to a shape sustaining form, into a substantially closed precooled mold, and after solidification to at least a shape-sustaining form, the bar is ejected from the mold for further cooling as necessary (see col. 3, lines 32-44). In Example 13, Lundberg teaches the preparation of a synthetic bar which comprises 55 parts sodium alkyl glyceryl ether sulfonate, 10 parts stearyl alcohol (the vehicle) (see Table under cols. 17-18). In Example 1, Lundberg teaches the process steps which include heating in a crutcher the synthetic detergent and fatty alcohol vehicle, agitating for about 20 minutes, then nitrogen gas is dispersed and emulsified in the melt, a portion of the melt is injected in the mold which was cooled to 0°F, and after about 2.5 minutes the bar was ejected from the mold (see col. 14, lines 10-55). Lundberg teaches the limitations of the instant claims. Hence, Lundberg anticipates the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-3, 5, 7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundberg as applied to the above claims.

Lundberg teaches the features as described above. In addition, Lundberg teaches that vehicle modifiers such as propylene glycol can be added to the melt in the

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range from 0% to about 8% (see col. 9, lines 31-55). Fillers can also be used in the bar compositions in amounts up to about 30% (see col. 13, lines 28-30), and one example is polyethylene glycols with molecular weights of 4,000 to 20,000 (see col. 13, lines 43-44). Water-soluble, normally solid, higher fatty acid soaps can be included in the bar composition in amounts up to about 15% to give the user of the finished bar an impression of "soap-feel" to which he may be accustomed (see col. 13, lines 8-21). Lundberg, however, fails to disclose (1) that the detergent active comprises soap; (2) the presence of polyhydric alcohol like propylene glycol and polyethylene glycol in amounts as those recited; and (3) the amount of fatty alcohol in the range from 1% to 9% by weight.

With respect to difference (1), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate soap in its optimum proportion into the bar composition because this would give the user of the finished bar an impression of "soap-feel" to which he may be accustomed as taught by Lundberg in col. 13, lines 8-21.

With respect to difference (2), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate propylene glycol and polyethylene glycol in their optimum proportions because the teachings of Lundberg encompass these ingredients and proportions thereof to provide the desired characteristics of the bar composition.

With respect to difference (3), a *prima facie* case of obviousness exists where the claimed ranges and prior art ranges do not overlap (i.e., 10% stearyl alcohol from

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Example 13 O Lundberg vs. 9% of instant claim 5) but are close enough that one skilled in the art would have expected them to have the same properties, see *Titanium Metals Corp. of America v. Banner*, 778F.2d 775,227 USPQ 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985). See MPEP 2144.05 I.

6. Claims 1-5, 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taneri et al. (US Patent No. 5,194,172), hereinafter "Taneri".

Taneri teaches a process for making aerated freezer bars which comprises the following steps: I. Mixing a soap composition comprising: (60) (A) from about 25 wt. % to about 70 wt. % of alkali metal fatty acid soap in which said fatty acids contain from about 8 to about 18 carbon atoms; (B) from about 5% to about 35% of sucrose; (C) from 0 wt. % to about 30 wt. % of hydrophobic material selected from waxes and free fatty acids, mono-, di-, and triglycerides; and fatty alcohols containing from about 8 to about 18 carbon atoms; and mixtures thereof; and (D) from about 10% to about 30%, preferably from about 15% or 20% to about 25%, water; wherein said composition has a mixing temperature of from about 82°C. to about 102 °C; II. Aerating said mix; III. Cooling the mix to a temperature of from about 49 °C. to about 66 °C; and IV. Forming aerated bars (plugs) from said cooled and aerated mix (see col. 7, lines 1-34). Although freezer bars are preferred, aerated bars of the present invention can also be made using a cast (frame) bars process (see col. 7, lines 57-59). The term "sucrose" include similar polyols like sorbitol (see col. 3, lines 17-22). The soaps are made in situ (see col. 8, line 29). The bar composition can additionally contain a water-soluble organic

nonsoap synthetic detergent, preferably, at a level of from about 2% to about 15% by weight of the bar (see col. 6, lines 14-17). Taneri, however, fails to specifically disclose a process for making an aerated bar soap using the cast process.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have prepared the aerated bar soap using the cast process because Taneri teaches that aerated bars can also be made using a cast process as disclosed in col. 7, lines 57-59.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taneri as applied to the above claims, and further in view of Moroney et al. (US Patent No. 5,264,144), hereinafter "Moroney".

Taneri teaches the features as described above. In addition, Taneri teaches that in cast bars, higher levels of water and/or organic solvent, e.g., 40% water are used (see col. 8, lines 5-7). Taneri, however, fails to disclose the incorporation of a mixture of polyethylene glycol with a molecular weight of between 200 and 1500, propylene glycol and sorbitol.

Moroney, an analogous art, teaches the incorporation of 1.0-50 wt% of water-soluble organics (see col. 13, lines 34-40), such as propylene glycol, polyethylene glycols of up to about 8,000 molecular weight and sorbitol to stabilize the appearance of the aerated bar soaps (see col. 15, lines 15-29).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate propylene glycol, polyethylene glycols of up to about

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8,000 molecular weight and sorbitol in their optimum proportions into the aerated bar of Taneri because Taneri specifically desires additional solvent in the cast process, and Moroney teaches such solvents to stabilize the appearance of the aerated bar soaps.

8. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundberg as applied to the above claims, and further in view of Moroney.

Lundberg teaches the features as described above. Lundberg, however, fails to disclose the incorporation of a mixture of polyethylene glycol with a molecular weight of between 200 and 1500, propylene glycol and sorbitol.

Moroney, an analogous art, teaches the incorporation of 1.0-50 wt% of water-soluble organics (see col. 13, lines 34-40), such as propylene glycol, polyethylene glycols of up to about 8,000 molecular weight and sorbitol to stabilize the appearance of the aerated bar soaps (see col. 15, lines 15-29).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate propylene glycol, polyethylene glycols of up to about 8,000 molecular weight and sorbitol in their optimum proportions into the aerated bar of Lundberg because such addition would stabilize the appearance of the aerated bar soaps as taught by Moroney.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lorna M. Douyon whose telephone number is 571-272-1313. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lorna M Douyon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796